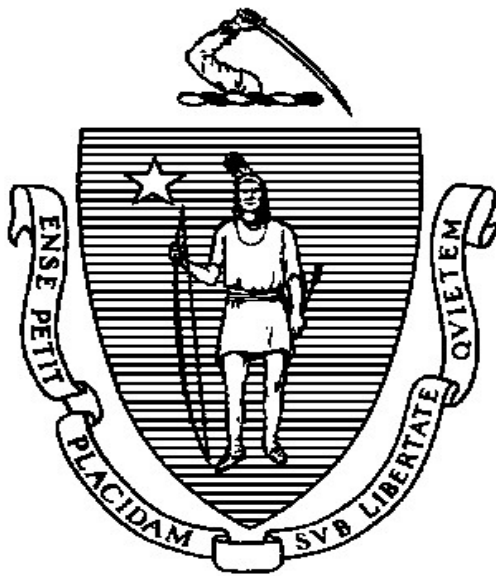


***Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator
Certification Coalition***

Fire Investigator Certification System

Application Package for Initial Certification



Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Massachusetts State Police
Municipal Police Training Committee

The Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator Certification Coalition

The Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator Certification Coalition (MPSFICC) is duly authorized by the Secretary of Public Safety as a cooperative entity comprised of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, the Municipal Police Training Committee, and the Massachusetts State Police. The purpose of the Coalition is to provide a comprehensive Fire Investigator certification program to eligible individuals of the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has been designated as the entity to administer this program.

Fire Investigator- Initial Certification

In order to become certified as a Fire Investigator by the Coalition, eligible candidates must fulfill the requirements as follows.

Step 1- Submission of a completed application for initial certification which includes attesting the candidate is at least eighteen (18) years of age and possesses a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) at the time of the examination.

Step 2- Submission of an affidavit the candidate is currently assigned to the position of Fire Investigator, has held such position for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the candidate's application date, and the candidate is of good moral character.

Step 3- Submission of documentation the candidate has completed at least one hundred (100) hours of fire/explosion investigation training in specific categories.

Step 4- Submission of documentation the candidate has participated in the investigation of at least fifty (50) separate fires/explosions operating at specific levels.

Step 5- Obtain a passing grade on the Fire Investigator Certification written examination (70%).

Step 6- Submission of a certification fee as established by the Coalition (\$30.00).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The attached application forms must be used and the forms may be duplicated. The application, all accompanying documentation, and certification fee must be received at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy no later than the deadline date noted in the examination schedule. The certification fee must be in the form of a personal check, bank draft, money order, municipal check, or municipal purchase order made to the order of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund. All others will be rejected. Upon acceptance and review, the candidate will be assigned to the examination date requested on the application. All applicants will be notified by email and if accepted will be supplied with all examination procedures.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This written examination will consist of 150 multiple choice questions given in a 180 minute period designed to examine the candidates knowledge of NFPA Standard 1033 for Fire Investigator, 2014 edition, in the following subject areas: General, Scene Examination, Documenting the Scene, Evidence Collection/Preservation, Interview, Post-Incident Investigation, and Presentations.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – The Massachusetts Fire Training Council will make every attempt to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and taking certification examinations. If you request accommodations (by checking the box on your certification application) please immediately contact the DFS Civil Rights Officer, Mary Travers at (978) 567-3145, to determine accommodations you may receive. Candidates who have received accommodations in the past must also contact Ms. Travers to determine if any additional documentation is required. Each request will be handled confidentially.

The following manuals and Massachusetts General Laws shall be the reference sources for the examination.

NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, 2014 Edition

Kirk's Fire Investigation, seventh edition. Brady, Prentice Hall.

Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service, fourth edition, Jones and Bartlett.

MGL c. 148, sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32

MGL c. 265, section 13D ½

MGL c. 266, sections 1, 2, 5, 5A, 7, 10, 29B, 101, 102, 102A, 102B

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following are sample questions to represent most of the **type** of questions a candidate will be asked to answer during the written examination.

1. For a candidate for this level of certification to be successful, he or she must do the following.
 - A. Take the examination process seriously.
 - B. Read all documentation carefully.
 - C. Study all references closely.
 - D. All of the above.

2. The two types of prestressed concrete are...

- A. pretensioned and post-tensioned.
- B. tensioned and untensioned.
- C. both A & B are correct.
- D. None of the above.

3. Balloon framing is characterized by all of the following except...

- A. lack of fire stopping.
- B. restricted vertical movement in walls.
- C. wood studs are continuous from the foundation to the eave line.
- D. joists rest on a ribbon board.

4. The type of diagram which uses arrows to depict an investigator's interpretation of flame or heat spread is called a _____ diagram.

- A. isochar
- B. vector
- C. pyrolysis
- D. smoke

5. The "arson immunity acts" addresses...

- A. physical evidence.
- B. items of information.
- C. interrogation techniques.
- D. legal interpretations.

ANSWERS

1. D 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B

**Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator
Certification Coalition**

Application for Initial Certification

SECTION 1 – EXAMINATION DATA

Print legibly and completely based on the instructions and enter the examination name, ex., Fire Investigator.

Examination: _____ **Fire Investigator** _____

☐ First Examination

☐ Retake Examination

Examination Date: _____ Location: _____

ADA accommodations required. Check box. ☐

SECTION 2 – APPLICANT DATA

Enter the following information. Name will appear on your certificate as it is printed below.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Home Address: _____
Street or Post Office Box City State Zip

Telephone: Home (____) _____ Work (____) _____ Last 4 digits of SS # _____

☐ This is a new address and/or phone numbers. Email: _____

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY

I am a member of one or more of the following:

- ☐ A federal, state, county, or municipal law enforcement department or fire department in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated.
- ☐ A non-municipal organization whose sole function is to provide a full range of services equivalent to a municipal fire department to a municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, compensated or uncompensated.
- ☐ Full-time employees of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, the Massachusetts Port Authority, or the University of Massachusetts.
- ☐ Full-time, civilian (non-military) members of military police or fire departments on installations which are located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AND:

☐ I am appointed/sworn and assigned to participate in fire investigations in the Commonwealth.

***Private fire investigators are not eligible for certification under this system
operated by the Coalition.***

Current Department or Organization Name: _____

Appointment Date: _____

SECTION 4 – EXAMINATION ENTRANCE CRITERIA

Check the appropriate boxes below, complete the documentation requested, and submit with this application..

☐ Fire Investigator Assignment and Affidavit for Initial Certification

☐ Training Prerequisite Form for Initial Certification.

☐ Experience Prerequisite Form for Initial Certification.

SECTION 5- APPLICANT CONFIRMATION

I, the applicant, by my signature below, attest that all of the above information is true, I am at least 18 years of age, and I possess a high school diploma or GED.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – The Coalition will make every attempt to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and taking certification examinations. If you request accommodations (by checking the box on your certification application) please immediately contact the DFS Civil Rights Officer, Mary Travers at (978) 567-3145, to determine accommodations you may receive. Candidates who have received accommodations in the past must also contact Ms. Travers to determine if any additional documentation is required. Each request will be handled confidentially.

The applicant will be notified by Email regarding their acceptance into this examination after the examination application deadline date has passed.

Note: The Coalition has an appeal process and fraud/misrepresentation policy. Visit the certification “Frequently Asked Questions” section of their website for details. (www.mass.gov/dfs)

SECTION 6 – CERTIFICATION FEE

The certification fee must be in the form of a personal check, money order, bank draft, municipal purchase order, or municipal check to the order of the **MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY TRUST FUND.**

____ **\$30.00** ☐ Personal Check ☐ Bank draft ☐ Money Order ☐ Municipal Check ☐ Municipal Purchase Order

Submit this application, all accompanying documentation, and the certification fee to:

MPSFICC - Fire Investigator Certification Examination
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
P. O. Box 1025
Stow, MA 01775

This application, accompanying documentation, and certification fee **MUST** be received at the above address no later than the close of business on the deadline date as listed in the examination schedule.

Please note: There will be a \$15.00 charge for bounced checks per 801 CMR 408.

Certification examination results will be withheld until all certification fees and surcharges (ex. bounced check fees) are paid in full.

SECTION 7 – RECERTIFICATION

Certification for this level will be valid for 5 years. Recertification requirements will include training, experience, and documentation. Details will be provided once certification is awarded.

NAME _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

**Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator
Certification Coalition**

***FIRE INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNMENT AND AFFIDAVIT FOR
INITIAL CERTIFICATION***

By my signature below, I am attesting _____
(candidate's full name)

has held the position of "Fire Investigator" for at least two (2) years immediately

preceding this date and is of good moral character for consideration as a candidate for

Fire Investigator certification.

Supervising Authority Signature: _____

Date: _____

NAME _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator Certification Coalition

TRAINING PREREQUISISTE FORM FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

A minimum of one-hundred (100) training hours covering topics 1 – 16 listed below is required. Training shall be conducted by credible training entities such as but not limited to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, the National Fire Academy, the Municipal Police Training Committee, the Massachusetts State Police Academy, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the International Association of Arson Investigators, etc.. A copy of the program completion certificate **MUST** be provided for the program listed.

- 1- Fire Science
- 2- Fire Chemistry
- 3- Thermodynamics
- 4- Thermometry
- 5- Fire Dynamics
- 6- Explosion Dynamics
- 7- Computer Fire Modeling
- 8- Fire Investigation
- 9- Fire Analysis
- 10- Fire Investigation Methodology
- 11- Fire Investigation Technology
- 12- Hazardous Materials
- 13- Failure Analysis and Analytical Tools
- 14- Fire Protective Systems
- 15- Evidence Documentation, Collection, & Preservation
- 16- Electricity and electrical systems

Specific information on these topics can be found in NFPA 921, *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations*.

[illegible]

NAME _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

Date	Location	Title	Topic(s)	Hours
		Total Number of Hours (100 minimum)		

NAME _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

Massachusetts Public Safety Fire Investigator Certification Coalition
EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITE FORM FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Submit documentation of participation in the investigation of at least fifty (50) separate fires/explosions. Documentation is required in two (2) categories. A minimum of twenty-five (25) fire/explosion scene investigations will involve at least one (1) of the following.

A = Origin and Cause

B = Scene Documentation

C = Evidence collection & preservation

No.	Date	Time	Location	A	B	C
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
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22						
23						
24						
25						

NAME _____ Last 4 digits of SS# _____

A minimum of twenty-five (25) fire/explosion investigations will involve at least one (1) of the following.

A = Origin and Cause B = Scene Documentation C = Evidence collection & preservation

D = Interviewing E = Post-incident investigation F = Presentation and reports

No.	Date	Time	Location	A	B	C	D	E	F
1									
2									
3									
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Supervising Authority Signature: _____

Date: _____